



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Walter McNutt, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman McNutt and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The City of Missoula is proud to stand with its partner, The University of Montana, and many other communities and public institutions around our state in support of House Bill 439, *general obligation bonds for state government*.

Here at home, HB439 gets to the heart of economic development and community building. A new College of Technology for The University of Montana in Missoula makes good on our commitment to adapt our workforce for a new Montana economy, give Montanans a chance to lead productive, middle-class lives, build wealth and, in the short term, put a bunch of contractors to work.

In addition to the provision of the bill that serves our community in particular, we're pleased to see that the bill acknowledges the needs and opportunities around Montana. We support those communities in their efforts, as well.

We've renewed our commitment to business growth, retention and recruitment in Missoula; the ability of The University of Montana to bond for construction of this long-anticipated facility is integral to a strategy that grows a stronger Missoula and, in turn, a stronger Montana.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Engen
Mayor

- c: Missoula Delegation
Montana League of Cities and Towns
Gallatin Public Affairs